

RECH NOW DENIES HE IS A MURDERER.

Declares He Did Not Confess to His Captors That He Killed His Wife.

Letter He Wrote to His Counsel, Which Detectives Say Will Convict Him, Is Found.

HE MAY HAVE TERRIBLY BLUNDERED.

His Possible Infant's Interests So Trusted That He Could Not Possibly Have Profited by Mrs. Rech's Death.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 30.—John Rech today made a kaleidoscopic change and announced that he had never really intended to make any confession. He said he knew who murdered Mrs. Rech, and advanced various theories and suppositions to indicate that the Estellville character "Spiky" Jones, might be the guilty man.

It is a strange coincidence that on this very day when Rech has varied his whole course of action and decided to plead "not guilty," the most damaging evidence yet obtained against him has been placed in the hands of the detectives. The letter that Rech wrote to his attorney, Carroll Williams, on Saturday last, was received by the lawyer today, and was at once turned over to the police.

Rech, when he was first arrested, stated that he had written to Williams. The note was written by Rech one day before he learned that the body of his murdered wife was found. He wrote to Williams when he thought the people in Estellville supposed his wife had abandoned him and gone away to Philadelphia, and told the lawyer he intended to give himself up because the woman had been murdered. The letter was written in German. Mr. Williams could not read it, and sent it at once to his former law partner, Edward W. McGill. Tomorrow the letter will be read by McGill at the inquest in May's Landing.

LETTER CLINCHES THE CASE.
The detectives announce that the letter has completely clinched their case. Prosecutor Perry was present this morning when Rech was arraigned before Magistrate Jermon in the City Hall, and on his request Rech was held without bail. It is probable that Rech will be taken to the jail at May's Landing to-morrow morning, and he may be a witness.

The officers thoroughly familiar with the case and in a position to know something of the real contents of the Rech confession made to Captain Miller, of the detectives, are saying to-day that Rech strangled his wife to death while she was asleep.

Rech's change was apparently decided upon by him in the early part of the afternoon. Twenty reporters for afternoon papers talked during the forenoon in Captain Miller's office with Rech, and to them he gave no sign of the startling information that was to come. He said that Mrs. Rech was always lonesome, wanted a child and finally came to the city and got one. He made no denial of his guilt and did not intimate that he had not made a full confession.

In the afternoon the reporters for morning papers were given the same opportunity to talk with Rech. At this time he stated at the very outset that he had not said to L. J. Ridge, of Scranton, or to any other man, that he killed Mrs. Rech. From that moment on he made denial after denial. He denied that he had entered into any conspiracy to foist an adopted baby on his relatives as his wife's own child. He admitted that he knew there was something in the will that gave Mrs. Rech's money to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in case she died without issue.

THINKS HE KNOWS WHO DID IT.
He did not deny that he knew of the will leaving the money to him in trust for a child, "Fred Rech," not in existence on the day the will was drawn on November 25. Rech said the axe the detectives claimed tailed so well with the marks on the stump of the tree did not really mean anything.

"I do not say I suspect Jones," he said. "I will say, though, that I think I know who did it."
Prosecutor Perry, who came from May's Landing this morning, was questioned about these intimations of Rech. "It is ridiculous," said Captain Perry. "Spiky" Jones had no more to do with that murder than I had. We suspect no one but Rech."

Finally, Rech was plied down to the confession he made to Captain Miller. "Did you make a confession?" was asked. "I made a statement," he answered.

"Did you state that you murdered your wife?"

"I will not say," answered Rech. "You ever said that you murdered her?" Rech was asked.

"No, I have not," he answered. Then he added, significantly, "Not to my knowledge."

Edward W. McGill, who was Mrs. Rech's attorney, said to-night:

"If the murder of Mrs. Rech had not been discovered and it had appeared to relatives and friends that she had died a natural death, Rech would not have had the handling of the money he doubtless expected to get. If Mrs. Rech did leave a child the money was to be retained in trust to be given to the heir at majority, the income alone to be paid at that time."

So, if the motive of the murder was avarice, Rech lost and did not gain if he killed his wife. He lost the income his wife was receiving which she had been sharing with him.

Rech has stated to-day that he was never really married to the wife he deserted in Allentown. He made this same statement months ago to Attorney McGill.

WIFE'S DESPERATE STRUGGLE.
From a discovery made late last night at the Rech's home at Estellville, N. J., it is thought that a terrible struggle took place there on Saturday night or early Sunday morning, and that the wife made a desperate fight to save her life. Stored away in a closet upstairs, piled under a lot of old rubbish, searchers found the woman's night dress. The garment was almost torn to shreds. The lower part was missing. The body when found was dressed in a new suit of underclothes.

The murderer dressed and arranged the body. Even the hair was neatly done up and arranged in coils. The only thing the murderer seems to have neglected, to make the appearance of a peaceful death, was the hanging of the handkerchiefs, with which the crime was committed, on the body.

To-day a trunk that was left at the house of a neighbor on Thursday afternoon when Rech left for Philadelphia was opened by Sheriff Johnson. In it were found a large amount of the woman's clothing. To-mor-



row at 2 o'clock the inquest adjourned on Saturday will be held in the Court House, and immediately afterward the body will be taken away to be buried at the expense of the county.

Prosecutor Samuel E. Perry, when seen to-night at Atlantic City, N. J., had in his possession the statement or confession of the murder made by Rech, but refused to state or intimate its contents. The envelope was sealed, and he did not intend to open it for several days. He did not know its contents himself.

SHOT IN CABANAS PRISON.

Enrique Aleman's Execution in the Old Fortress Yesterday to Be Followed by Others This Week.

Havana, March 30.—The rebel leader, Enrique Aleman, was shot this morning in the Cabanas fortress. Other executions will take place this week.

Aleman belonged to one of Maceo's bands, which was dispersed. Afterward he joined a small band of insurgents and was captured in a fight with the troops, in which he was wounded in the arm, in both hands and in the fingers. His right hand was amputated in a hospital.

Insurgents have burned Penabaz, a small town two leagues from Guanabacoa, Province of Havana. They hanged the alcalde.

Colonel Moncada reports that his command made a reconnaissance in the Sigüenza Valley and destroyed 100 houses that the insurgents were using as infirmaries and workshops. In the fighting the rebels lost eight killed, including one bearing the title of "Governor" Castro.

A detachment of troops, acting in concert with a gunboat, fought an insurgent force at Rincon, near Cape Cruz. Three rebels were killed, among the number being the leader Cervino, who had just landed with an expedition from Jamaica.

The warship Alfonso XII, fired by mistake upon the Spanish coasting steamer Alva of Matanzas. One blank shot and five balls were fired at her, but no damage was done.

BULWAYO'S GREAT PERIL.

The Situation There Very Serious—Chamberlain Denies the Delagoa Bay Purchase Rumor.

London, March 30.—Lord Gifford, a director of the British South Africa Company, today received a cable dispatch from Bulawayo, dated yesterday, saying that the position there was very serious. A larder for the defence of the people had been constructed. All mining operations had been suspended.

A dispatch from Cape Town to the Central News says that the authorities of the Chartered South Africa Company have wired Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of the Cape Colony and British High Commissioner, that no more men are needed in the disturbed district.

In the House of Commons to-day Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated in reply to a question upon a subject by Mr. John Holmden, that there was not an atom of truth in the report that the Government was negotiating for the purchase of Delagoa Bay from Portugal.

Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, Conservative Member of the Privy Council, and Secretary of the South African Republic, also stated the position of the Government regarding the report. Mr. Chamberlain declined to give any information concerning the matter.

HARRISON TO START TO-DAY.

Will Soon Join His Fiancee, With Prospects of a Quiet Wedding.

Indianapolis, March 30.—Ex-President Harrison, ex-Marshall Randall and Private Secretary Tibbitts will leave here for New York at 2:45 o'clock to-morrow afternoon over the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mrs. McRee and Russell Harrison are here, and spent the greater part of yesterday with their father, but it is not known whether they will accompany him to New York.

Regarding the wedding, it is said that General Harrison has a surprise in store for the guests. Friends here believe that the wedding will occur at the residence of Mrs. Dinwiddie and that there will be no attendants and no display of any kind.

The suit which the ex-President will wear at the wedding consists of a Prince Albert coat cut unusually long, and fitting him very closely. The trousers are of French dress. He will also wear a white silk vest, set off with small dots.

Funeral of Mother and Son.
A mother and son will be buried to-day from No. 303 East One Hundred and Twenty-fourth street, and a daughter lies at the point of death. Mrs. Amelia Leon, seventy-three years old, lived with her daughter, Mrs. Sigmund Gottesman, at the above address. She died on Friday of old age. Her son, Leo, forty years old, was in the Montefiore Home, sick with consumption. He heard of his mother's death on Sunday morning.

"Well, I'll soon follow her," he said. That night he, too, died. Mrs. Gottesman, who had just become a mother, was further prostrated by the bad news and is very low.

Guilty of Passing Counterfeits.
Frank McManey, who was arrested in February on the charge of trying to pass counterfeit half dollars on four street car conductors, was arraigned yesterday in the United States Circuit Court. He pleaded intoxication at the time of the occurrence, and said the counterfeit coins had been given him among some change in a Bowery saloon. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and recommended him to the mercy of the court.



PRINCIPALS AND FEATURES IN THE ESTELLVILLE MURDER TRAGEDY.

John Rech, who is now in custody, is accused of murdering his wife, Bessie Rech. They had planned to secure a fortune by palming off another baby as their own, and Rech is supposed to have killed her to get it all. Her body was found by neighbors buried in a wood under a newly felled tree. The body showed evidence of strangulation. Rech was subsequently captured and confessed the crime. Yesterday he repudiated the confession and intimated that the murder was committed by "Spiky" Jones.

BARNES THREATENS MORTON.

Angered at a Possible Veto of the Albany Police Bill.

Albany, March 30.—William Barnes, Jr., the Platt boss of Albany, is in a state of great excitement to-night over the rumor that Governor Morton intends vetoing the Albany Police bill, a political measure prepared for the purpose of turning Democrats out of the police force and giving the department over to the Republicans.

Mr. Barnes scurried about the legislative halls drumming up Republican leaders to act as persuaders. He made a strong argument to James M. O'Grady. He said that if the Governor vetoed the bill it would be the death blow to the Republican organization in Albany County. He declared the faithful were growing restive over the Governor's delay in taking action on the bill, and predicted that if the Governor vetoed the bill the Republicans would hold an indignation meeting, over which Representative Southwick would preside. "And we won't talk for Morton at that meeting either," is the remarkable utterance attributed to Mr. Barnes.

This is interesting in view of Mr. Barnes's position as a faithful Platt Republican. Governor Morton has done all he consistently could to do further Mr. Barnes's ambition. Mr. Southwick was the permanent Chairman of the Republican State Convention. If Mr. Morton's strongest supporters threaten openly to kill him if he vetoes a grab bill, he will probably be in some doubt as to how sincere these supporters really are.

Mrs. Whitaker is still in the Port Jervis Hospital, and her physical condition is so much improved that she could be put on the witness stand to-day, if it was considered expedient. She will not be asked to tell her story until Wednesday, after all of the other witnesses have been heard.

Eugene Meyers, who was a boarder in the Snyder household for twelve years, will be the most important witness of the day. It is learned on credible authority that his testimony as to Mrs. Whitaker's relations with her parents will differ radically from that of Case Snider, the other boarder. Meyers has told the Coroner that so far as he knows Mrs. Whitaker's relations with her father and mother were of the fraudulent description, while Snider, who is a second cousin of the Snyders, says that they were not. In this Snider agrees with the other relatives.

Upon the ante-mortem statement made by Mrs. Snyder, unless there is considerable other and corroborative evidence, there is no prospect that the girl can be held. The ante-mortem statement is far from

RELATIVES WILL BE ALL AGAINST HER.

Inquest in Poisoning Case, Where Daughter Is Accused, Begins To-day.

Port Jervis Is Divided in Its Opinion Concerning the Guilt of Mrs. Whitaker.

SHE SAYS HER MOTHER WAS JEALOUS.

A Boarder Who Lived for Years in the Snyder Household Will Testify That Mother and Daughter Were Apparently on Good Terms.

The Coroner's inquest in the case of the mysterious poisoning of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Snyder will be begun to-day in Port Jervis. About sixteen witnesses, relatives and former associates of Mrs. Martha Whitaker, the daughter who was suspected of the crime and is under police surveillance, will be examined.

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complete and the Coroner says that the reason it was not obtained in fuller detail and true form was that Mrs. Snyder was at the time it was taken too weak to understand and answer all of the questions he would have asked her. Mrs. Snyder does not in her statement directly accuse her daughter of having administered the poison, but she did accuse her verbally to some of the relatives.

A month ago the Snyders were attacked with an illness that presented all of the symptoms of poisoning, but far less acute than in their last sickness. At that time Mrs. Whitaker was, it is said, not herself ill in the least. The former illness puzzles the prosecuting officers greatly. If it were Mrs. Whitaker who administered the poison, why, they ask, did she not continue its administration then? If it were she who had planned a deliberate murder, what was it that interfered with its consummation at that time?

There is by no means a certainty that death was due to arsenical poisoning. Any one of half a dozen corrosive or irritant poisons or a combination of them could have caused the superficial appearance of the effects of poison revealed in the viscera by the autopsies on the two victims. The analysis of the viscera will not be completed for ten days, and then only will the true cause of death be known.

Fowler's solution, rat poison, Paris green, arsenious acid and several other poisons can be bought at most of the Port Jervis drug stores without a prescription. "If any one of those druggists," said District-Attorney Powelson, "violated the law by selling poison to a member of the Snyder family, we will never be expected to find it. It is hardly to be expected that they would come forward and confess themselves. From a look at Mrs. Whitaker, I should say that she was a woman of considerable shrewdness and would not, I should think, purchase poison to be used for such a purpose in Port Jervis."

Special County Judge Fullerton will represent the District-Attorney's office at the inquest, and it is as yet unknown whether Wilton Bennett, counsel for Mrs. Whitaker, will be permitted to cross-examine witnesses or not. That is discretionary with the Coroner.

"Mrs. Whitaker is not under arrest," says Mr. Powelson, "nor legally charged with any crime. What we want to get at is the truth."

WAS MRS. SNYDER JEALOUS.
It is said that the relations of Mr. and Mrs. Snyder were not always harmonious. Mrs. Whitaker told her counsel on Satur-

day that her mother had once been jealous of a servant girl, and had discharged her. The relatives deny that there ever was the slightest friction between the husband and wife. Mr. Snyder was something of a hypochondriac, and his house contained a great deal of patent medicine. Everything of that sort found in the house was sent to Professor Witthouse for analysis at the same time the viscera were sent.

Constable Harvey in looking over the house on Thursday discovered a small wooden box of white pills in Mrs. Whitaker's work basket. They were not labeled and they too will be analyzed.

Dr. Swartwout, who was one of the three attending physicians, says that he prescribed some white tablets that were to be dissolved in water. He thinks it peculiar that Mrs. Whitaker left the sickroom to prepare them according to his instructions, when there was a glass of water and spoon right at hand.

The will signed by Mrs. Snyder at the instance of the attending aunts and cousins was signed shortly after the death of Mr. Snyder and deprives Mrs. Whitaker of the \$2,000 insurance on Mrs. Snyder's life. The \$1,000 insurance on Mrs. Snyder's life is still payable to the daughter.

BANDITTI, SAYS PHELPS.

The Ex-Minister to Great Britain Speaks of the Rebellion in Cuba as one of Arson, Pillage and Murder.

Edward J. Phelps, who was President Cleveland's first Minister to the Court of St. James, and is now professor of international law at Yale University, addressed a large audience at Association Hall, in Brooklyn, last night. His subject was "The Monroe Doctrine."

The foreign policy of President Cleveland in the matter of the Venezuelan controversy and the action of Congress in passing resolutions calling upon the President to recognize the belligerency of the Cubans were both condemned by ex-Minister Phelps. "Spain has not owned Cuba for centuries," Mr. Phelps said. "Recently a rebellion has broken out there. It is a rebellion of bandits, a rebellion of arson, of pillage, of murder!"

"What Mr. Monroe said in regard to colonization may be dismissed with a single word. It is a dead issue. South America is all occupied."

Mr. Phelps defined the Monroe Doctrine as simply the right of a nation to defend itself—nothing more. Speaking of the dispute over the Venezuelan boundary line, he said that he did not believe that there was now, or ever had been, a definitely defined line. The interference of the American nation in the Venezuelan controversy, he said:

"We have been told that it is the American policy. Some men have a feeling that we are not amenable to the law of nations. We are Americans. We are not monarchs of all we survey. We will do this thing, not because we have any object, but just because we want to do it."

That is the language of the bully. What becomes of the nation? It is the business of show to men who know much of the world. In France there was once a man who had turned himself into a king on thrones in the strongest nation, but France's decay began with the fall of Napoleon.

"The strong arm sense of America has, I hope, terminated what seemed a dangerous condition of affairs. But Congress turns itself immediately to Spain. 'If we can't fight England, if the good sense of the better element of Americanism prevents us from doing England, then let's fight Spain.' For what, in heaven's name?"

Mr. Phelps said that this country would have receded in its history during the civil war, such action on the part of any other nation, as we have contemplated toward Spain, that he believed his address by remarking that he believed that peace would prevail in spite of the men who clamor for war for war's sake.

A reception and supper followed the address at the Hamilton Club. Many of the justices of the Supreme Court and prominent lawyers of Brooklyn were present.

GAVE WORTHLESS CHECKS.

When Arrested on This Charge Last Night Mrs. Rauke Becomes Indignant and Threatens the Police.

Maria L. Rauke, who gave her age as thirty-six and said she lived at No. 6 East Thirty-second street, was late last night arrested at her home by Detective Patrick I. Gargan on complaint of James A. Walton, a dealer in stereopticon supplies at No. 50 Division street.

Last month Walton sold Mme. Rauke checks valued at \$13.38, for which she gave him two checks. The checks were worthless.

When taken before Sergeant Blake at the station house she at first refused to make any statement in the presence of reporters. Upon the refusal of the Sergeant to commit the room, Mrs. Rauke threatened to prefer charges against him before Commissioner Roosevelt.

"I'm a lady," said she, "and I can call upon Mayor Strong at any time for a recommendation."

Last January Mrs. Rauke gave an illustrated subscription recital at the Berkeley Lyceum, counsel for Mrs. Whitaker, will be permitted to cross-examine witnesses or not. That is discretionary with the Coroner.

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MRS. KELSO'S NOTES OF LOVE AND DEATH.

In Letters Read at the Inquest Tells of Her Purpose to Kill the Children.

"We Are All Dead, I Love You," She Writes to Her Husband in Sending Him the Door Key.

THE MOTHER DECLARED INSANE.

Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald, President of the State Lunacy Commission, Says That Mrs. Kelso Is Melancholic, and the Coroner so Renders.

Coroner Hoeber held an inquest yesterday afternoon into the cause of death of Ethel and George Radford Kelso, aged four and one-half and two and one-half years respectively, who were killed on February 21 by their mother, Ethel, while temporarily insane, at their home, No. 148 West Ninety-fifth street.

George Radford Kelso, the father of the children, is the superintendent of the Martin B. Brown Publishing Company. During his testimony he spoke of finding two letters, one under the front door and the other on the table. Coroner Hoeber was surprised at the testimony.

"I was told that Mrs. Kelso left no letters," he said. "Why didn't I know about this?"

"But I did not see you," said Mr. Kelso. "I turned the letters over to my lawyer, Elek J. Ludrich."

One letter was very short and read as follows:

This is the key of the sitting-room. We are all dead. I love you. A.D.A.

This letter was in an envelope containing the key. The other letter was longer and in an envelope stained with blood. It read:

My Own Rad: It is too much for me, and by the time you receive this we will be dead. I shall give the children soothing syrup, and when they are asleep shoot them to keep them from suffering. So you see they are not there. For myself, I took some poison this morning while the doctor was not looking, and if that should fail I have the revolver, for which I bought cartridges. Good-by, my darling, my love, and remember that I have never for one moment wavered in my love for you. Try to get over this soon and live to be happy with some better woman. I love you. I have always loved you, and now, at the last moment, I love you more than ever.

A.D.A.

On the envelope was written: "Leave directions for your own post-mortem when you die. I pray you."

The husband testified that Mrs. Kelso had suffered from an operation which had to be repeated twice; that on February 21 Mrs. Kelso had sent the nurse away, and after shooting the children had cut her own wrist with a razor in an attempt to commit suicide. Mr. Kelso said that when he returned home from business that day he found his wife seated in a chair, bleeding at the wrist. He called a cook and sent her for a policeman. Then he found bodies of his children.

Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald, president of the State Commission of Lunacy, testified that he had examined Mrs. Kelso at Bellevue Hospital, and that she was insane without doubt; that she suffered from melancholia with a tendency to frenzy.

The jury found that the children came to their death at the hands of their mother while she was temporarily insane.

CHILD CHASES A THIEF

Twelve-Year-Old Fannie Lipschitz Frightens Off Three Men and Secures the Arrest of One of Them.

The courage of little twelve-year-old Fannie Lipschitz, of No. 57 Division street, was the cause of Frank Kester, an alleged thief, being held in \$2,000 bail by Magistrate Brann, in the Essex Market Court, yesterday. He is charged with having entered the apartments occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lipschitz and stealing goods to the value of \$72.

Sunday night, while her father, Abraham Lipschitz, and her mother had gone out Fannie saw three men, of whom Kester was one, leave the apartments occupied by the family. Kester had a satchel in his hand. Suspecting that something was wrong the little girl gave chase, and that they wanted in the apartments. One of the men brushed her aside and the three darted for the door. She pursued them and seized Kester just as he reached the exit. Turning suddenly he grasped her by the arm and threw her off, her body striking heavily against the wall.

Then the three men ran in different directions. Fannie realized that they were about to escape, and followed Kester as he ran up Division street. She ran for two blocks before she saw Policeman O'Brien, of the Eldridge Street Station, and shouted to him. Then he gave chase and caught Kester half a block further on.

"He robbed my father's place," panted little Fannie, her slight frame quivering with fatigue. "I want you to arrest him."

The policeman investigated the case and found that what the little girl said was true. Kester was locked up. When arraigned in court yesterday he stated that he had been drinking heavily and did not remember anything of the affair. The satchel, it was found, however, contained the stolen goods, and Kester was held. The Magistrate took occasion to commend the little girl on her bravery, and to-day she is quite a heroine among her playmates on the East Side.

Insane Youth Disappears.

Gustave L. Jost, of Rutherford, N. J., yesterday asked the police to look for his brother, William D. Jost, twenty-four years old, who disappeared last Sunday from No. 61 East Sixty-fourth street, where he boarded. Jost said that the young man was demented. A few hours after his disappearance a postal card was received from him stating that he would not return until 1904.

Boy Run Over by a Trolley.

Shortly after noon yesterday while on his way home to dinner, Chester Mullen aged eight years, son of William Mullen, a carpenter living at No. 60 Yonkers avenue, was struck and almost instantly killed on Yonkers avenue, not far from his home by a trolley car on the Mount Vernon branch of the Yonkers Electric Railroad.

